

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 ACDA-05 EB-07

SAM-01 SAJ-01 /114 W

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R 111516Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8010

USMISSION USUN

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0929

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, EK, RQ

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH EG UN PERMREP BENJAMIN ECUA MICO

REFS: A) YAOUNDE 898 (NOTAL) B) YAOUNDE 923 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. DURING PRESIDENTIAL DINNER EVENING OF MARCH 5 CELEBRATIONS OF FINAL VICTORY OVER COLONIALISM, EG UN PERMREP ECUA MICO WAS SEATED NEXT TO AMBASSADOR SPIRO, WHO HAD LONG CONVERSATION WITH HIM ABOUT EG UN MISSION, AND EG VOTING AT UN, ESPECIALLY ON PUERTO RICO. END SUMMARY.

2. SEATING ARRANGEMENTS WERE DESIGNED TO FACILITATE CONVERSATION WITH ECUA MICO. BELOW HEAD TABLE, AT WHICH MACIAS AND WIFE WERE FLANKED BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF PARTY, WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF EDUCATION, WAS LONG TABLE FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS. AT ITS HEAD WERE SOVIET AND PRC AMBASSADORS, FACING EACH OTHER. I WAS NEXT TO PRC AMBASSADOR, WITH
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ECUA MICO AT MY OTHER SIDE, SEATED AFTER DIPS. HE INTRODUCED

HIMSELF AS HAVING BEEN AT UN FOR 14 MONTHS, LIVING IN MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK, WITH FIVE YEAR OLD SON IN PUBLIC SCHOOL.

3. TO MY GENERAL QUESTION ABOUT EGUN COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOEG, HE READILY REPLIED THAT THEIR COMMUNICATIONS USED TO BE POOR UNTIL INSTALLATION OF SATELLITE SYSTEMS. ON MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE, EGUN HAS STANDING INSTRUCTIONS. THIS APPARENTLY INCLUDES ISSUES ON WHICH THE OAU CAUCUS TAKES A JOINT STAND, THOUGH THIS STAND IS OFTEN REACHED AFTER DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK. FOR THIS REASON, FOR EXAMPLE, ECUA, WHO HAD BEEN IN EG FOR TWO WEEKS, WAS RETURNING TO NEW YORK THIS WEEK TO TAKE PART IN IMPORTANT AFRICAN DISCUSSION NOT REPEAT NOT RELATED TO LOS CONFERENCE, WHICH BEING HANDLED BY HIS DEPUTY. ON QUESTIONS THAT COME UP SUDDENLY, EGUN NOW TELEPHONES OR TELEGRAPHS MALABO.

4. I TOLD HIM OF US OBJECTION TO MECHANICAL BLOC VOTING. CAMEROON'S CHARGE IN EG, LAURENT MVOGA ESSOMBA, WAS SEATED ON ECUA'S OTHER SIDE, AND I MENTIONED THAT CAMEROON LIKE EG ALSO OFTEN VOTED AGAINST US, BUT IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT UN DELEGATIONS LOOKED AT EACH ISSUE ON ITS MERITS, AND THEN TRIED TO PERSUADE EACH OTHER WHERE APPROPRIATE. US HAD DONE THIS, FOR EXAMPLE, ON UNANIMOUS NAMIBIA RESOLUTION. ECUA ACKNOWLEDGED LATTER VOTE AS PLEASANT SURPRISE. I THEN CITED PUERTO RICO AS AN ILLUSTRATION WHICH ECUA MIGHT HAVE EASIER TIME UNDERSTANDING THAN ISSUES LIKE VIETNAM, KOREA, OR ZIONISM. HE SAID THAT SINCE EG WAS NOT MEMBER OF DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE, THEY HAD NOT BEEN IMMEDIATELY SEIZED OF PR ISSUE, BUT THEY WERE INTERESTED IN IT. I TOLD HIM THAT PR WAS EX-SPANISH COLONY LIKE EG, BUT MORE LIKE CUBA AND PHILIPPINES, BOTH OF WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN THEIR INDEPENDENCE AFTER THE US HAD LIBERATED THEM FROM SPAIN. PR WAS UNIQUE BECAUSE IT HAD DECIDED IN PLEBIUNITES AND REPEATED REGULAR ELECTIONS TO MAINTAIN PRESENT STATUS. INDEPENDISTAS WERE TINY MINORITY THAT FREQUENTLY ENGAGED IN TERRORISM AND WAS THUS OPPOSED TO EG PRINCIPLED STAND, CONSTANTLY REPEATED IN CHANTS OF MILITANTS AT PARADE, AGAINST COUPS K'ETAT ("ABAJO LOS GOLPES DE ESTADO").

5. IT TOLD HIM OF STRONG AMERICAN FEELING THAT CUBAN-INITIATED CLAIM THAT PR WAS COLONY CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE IN OUR INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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NAL AFFAIRS WHICH WE WOULD NOT TOLERATE. I SUGGESTED THAT CALL FOR PR INDEPENDENCE STRUCK AMERICANS THE SAME WAY AS WOULD A NIGERIAN DEMAND FOR FERNANDO PO INDEPENDENCE, WITH DIFFERENCE THAT PR HAS ENJOYED MANY FREE AND REGULAR ELECTIONS, IN WHICH OVERWHELMING MAJORITY REASSERTED DESIRE TO CONTINUE ESTADO LIBRE STATUS, WITH MINORITY FAVORING EVEN CLOSER STATEHOOD LINKS, WHILE FERNANDO PO HAS HAD NO SUCH ELECTIONS. HE CLAIMED THAT SITUATION WAS NOT THE SAME. I SAID THAT AMERICAN FEELING

IS THE SAME AS IF NIGERIA MADE SUCH A DEMAND. HE ALLOWED THAT GOEG AND EGUN OFTEN LACKED FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT ISSUE OF THIS KIND AND WOULD WELCOME BEING PROVIDED WITH SUCH INFORMATION BY USUN. ECUA SAID THAT HE KNEW AMBASSADOR BARBARA M. WHITE OF USUN, BECAUSE SHE SPEAKS SPANISH. HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ACQUAINTED WITH ANYONE ELSE AT USUN.

6. BEFORE MACIAS BEGAN HIS SPEECH, ECUA TOLD ME THAT EG AND US CAN AND SHOULD WORK TOGETHER FOR PEACE, AND HE FOUND THIS THEME REPEATED BY MACIAS, WHO ADDRESSED HIMSELF ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO THE AMBASSADORS OF THE THREE MOST POWERFUL COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD AT HEAD OF DIPLOMATIC TABLE, MENTIONING US IN DIFFERENT SEQUENCE, WITH CHINA, USSR, OR US AT BEGINNING OF LIST. MACIAS TOLD US THAT THESE THREE SHOULD COLLABORATE INSTEAD OF ENGAGING IN THE ARMS RACE, SO THAT THE MONEY SAVED COULD BE GIVEN AS AID TO POOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE EG. IF THE MOST POWERFUL COLLABORATE, MACIAS SAID, THERE WILL BE PEACE FOR THE WORLD. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS WHY THE BIG THREE (SIC) WANTED TO CONTINUE DEALINGS WITH THE MINORITY REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, BUT THEY COULD HAVE EQUALLY GOOD COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH MAJORITY GOVERNMENTS ONCE THESE WERE INSTALLED. AGAIN, IF THE BIG THREE COOPERATE, VORSTER AND SMITH WILL FALL. AFTER MACIAS' SPEECH, ECUA GAVE ME A CAPSULE REPLY OF IT, EMPHASIZING THE THEMES OF PEACE AND AID.

7. ON OUR WAY FROM THE DINNER TABLE TO TRADITIONAL DANCERS - WHICH INCLUDED A TROUPE OF TOPLESS GIRLS, TO THE ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT OF THE PRC AMBASSADOR AND HIS LARGE DELEGATION - I KIDDED THE PRC AMBASSADOR ABOUT MACIAS' INCLUSION OF HIS COUNTRY AMONG THE SUPERPOWERS. HE TOOK KIDDING IN GOOD-NATURED WAY.

8. ON SAME OCCASION, I URGED ECUA TO OBSERVE US NATIONAL NOMINATING CONVENTIONS THIS SUMMER, SO THAT HE COULD SEE, AND HEAR

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SPANISH ACCENTS OF, PUERTO RICAN DELEGATIONS AS THEY PARTICIPATED IN GREAT QUADRENNIAL RENEWAL OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY. I BELIEVE HE WILL DO SO, THOUGH I DOUBT, EVEN IF USUN FURNISHES HIM WITH MAXIMUM OF INFORMATION ABOUT PR, AND EVEN IF US DOES NOT BREAK RELATIONS WITH EG AFTER ITS PNG'ING OF BILL MITHOEFER AND MYSELF, THAT EG WILL BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO PERSUASION.

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